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## EXCLUSIVELY YOURS

Air of Distinction  
Prevails at HearingBy BETTY BEALE  
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There was an air of quiet distinction in the Foreign Relations Committee rooms in the new Senate Office Building yesterday morning.

Within the elegant confines of the paneled rooms several men of distinction and one woman who would certainly merit that description anywhere by her appearance alone, were being questioned by members of the committee.

Despite the ever present schoolmaster and student appearance of an interrogation that involves a row of senators seated at a high bench and quizzing a lone figure below them, the prevailing atmosphere was one of respect for those lone figures.

**IN THE CASE OF DAVID K. E. BRUCE**, candidate for Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, the respect almost veered on reverence. Senate Majority Leader Mansfield told him, "I feel like I know you like the back of my hand and what I know is good, so I will not ask you any questions."

Republican Senator Hickel said he counted the country fortunate in getting him; Senator Long of Louisiana smilingly pointed out that if the Republicans had appointed him ambassador and were satisfied, the Democrats were certainly happy to have him; and Senator Symington said, "I don't think anybody in the Free World knows more about diplomatic problems than Mr. Bruce."

It's hard to see how anyone could have had smoother sailing before his inquisitors. "They practically thanked him for taking the job," observed one of the audience later.

Evangeline Bruce was not among the society women who turned up to hear her husband testify. Perhaps she suspected for the reason Senator Long mentioned that

the whole thing would take about five minutes.

But seated in a row together were Mrs. Harry Labouisse, whose husband was a candidate for director of the International Co-operation Administration; Mrs. Allen Dulles, Mrs. Walter Lippmann, Mrs. John Barry Ryan of New York, who has been visiting Sir Harold and Lady Caccia, and Kay Halle. Later Mrs. Philip Watts and a friend slipped in and found two vacant seats in back of them.

**EVE CURIE LABOUISSSE**, daughter of Mme. Curie, the discover of radium, wore the proverbial tailored Paris suit, gold clip on the lapel and no hat on the short, dark wavy locks that were brushed back from her handsome face. Also hatless were Helen Lippmann and Kay. One of these days millinery for mid-day wear may disappear entirely from the Washington scene.

Most of the women were there because of the first person to be questioned, Marietta Tree of New York, candidate for United States Representative on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The tall, slender, lovely looking blond woman in her robin's egg blue suit, mink beret and three-strand pearl choker was the only candidate, one couldn't help noting, who was presented to the committee by her Senator. The men had no such courtly backing. Gallantry is obviously not dead.

**KENNETH KEATING** is a Republican but he pulled no stops in describing the prominent feminine Democrat. "Her ability, her conscientiousness, and, I need not add, her charm, have brought her wide respect from those on all sides of the political fence."

In fact, the Senator said he was "practically speech-

less" over this presentation "which is an unusual condition for a United States Senator." He told how she was presently Commissioner of Inter-group Relations for the City of New York, former director of the National Urban League, a director of the New York Committee of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and one of the founders of the first inter-racial private hospital, Sydenham, in New York City.

Senator Sparkman, acting chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the absence of Senator Fulbright, asked her what would be her procedure on the Human Rights Commission if she differed from United States policy. She said she would first discuss it with the group and if she were over-ruled and she couldn't go along with the decision she would resign.

**MARIETTA TREE** answered all questions as briefly as possible, which couldn't have failed to make an impression on the less talkative sex, so-called.

The high point of the hearings centered in the man who immediately followed Mrs. Tree to the questioning stand—Gen. James M. Gavin, USA, retired, candidate for Ambassador to France, who began by puncturing the myth that he was appointed because of his friendship with Gen. De Gaulle. He did not know him, he said.

He also punctured the myth that here was another envoy being appointed who couldn't speak the language. "I speak it reasonably well," he told the committee. "I spoke it in France. I have been working very hard on it" of late, he said.

Afterwards the General said his wife, who is also studying French, "is a whiz at picking up languages." "She had never been out of the United States until we went to Italy in 1952," he said, "and a year later they were using her as an interpreter for the incoming ladies."

Senator Sparkman asked him how long would he serve as ambassador. "I will serve as long as the president requires me to be there," replied Jimmy Gavin. "I suppose that's fair enough," said Senator Sparkman realizing that no man could do more.

**SENATOR HICKENLOOPER** was the only fly in the ointment. He tried to pin the

General down to a statement that he could no properly represent the United States without a substantially larger allowance than is customarily provided. Gen. Gavin, who was loathe to sound like he is a pauper, replied, "I must say I rely on the good judgment of this body to increase the allowance." There was soft laughter among the audience.

Senator Long rushed to his gallant defense as soon as his turn came: "I personally hope President Kennedy will not be limited to millionaires in his choices for ambassadorial posts."

Senator Symington championed Gen. Gavin's outspokenness when he testified under oath on America's lack of preparedness at the time of his resignation from the Army. "Everything he stated has proved to be correct. I hope he will be as wise as an ambassador."

Out in the hall after his interrogation Gen. Gavin ran into an old friend, Senator Barry Goldwater, who could not have greeted him with more warmth. "I am so glad you're back in Government service," the Arizona Republican told him with great sincerity.

**SAID THE GENERAL** afterwards, "He's one of my dearest friends. Thirty years ago we had a Gavin-Goldwater tennis tournament in Nogales, Ariz. He's a terrific guy. He has a bright and scintillating mind."

Mrs. Gavin is due in Washington Monday evening. The General will begin his briefings at once and they will sail in a month's time.

Following his testimony the committee gradually began to shrink in size until only a few heard Harry Labouisse's heart-stirring description of the refugee problem, particularly in the Gaza Strip. And when Charles F. Baldwin stepped forward as a candidate for Ambassador of Malaya, only two Senators were still sitting at the imposing bench.

But all candidates made the grade.